

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

January 1990



Members' Meetings

"Bats: Myth and Reality"

Tuesday, January 9 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.



*Samoan
Flying Fox*

William E. Rainey

From the day Dr. Elizabeth Pierson met her first bat twelve years ago, she has been committed to the study and conservation of these unusual creatures. Her research on the ecology and evolution of bats has taken her to Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. In her lectures on Tuesday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 10, she will provide a rare look at the great diversity of bats, ranging from the endangered singing bat of New Zealand to the kinds of bats you might find in your own back yard or attic.

Fear of the unknown is a part of human nature. Because so little is known about the lives of bats, people have developed an unwarranted fear of these animals, contributing to the exploitation, endangerment and extinction of many bat species throughout the world. Using slides taken by her-

self and renowned bat photographer, Dr. Merlin Tuttle of Bat Conservation International, Dr. Pierson will discuss some of the myths and superstitions about bats, emphasizing their crucial role in the many ecosystems of the world.

The Academy Store will be open before and after the January evening meetings. Next month, Academy entomologist Dr. David Kavanaugh presents "In Search of Beetles in 'the Land of the Unexpected': Papua New Guinea."

Congratulations to winners in the Members' Open House drawing!

William Pattison and Pat Clark won Academy Store gift certificates, Greg Sommers won a trip to Año Nuevo and Diana McKennett won an adult education class on the geology of Northern California.

Special Members' Lecture Earthquakes! Tues., January 23 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Earthquakes are on everyone's mind since the events of October 1989. The Academy is offering this free special lecture to help our members understand earthquakes; how and why they occur, and what they mean to the people who have to live with them.

Drs. Peter Rodda and Jean DeMouthe, Academy geologists, will present basic information about earthquakes, Bay Area geology, and the earthquake of October 17, 1989.

Join them for this free, informative lecture at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. on January 23 in the Morrison Auditorium. For more information, please call (415)750-7142.

Flights of Fancy January 11

The fifth-annual black-tie event, postponed because of the earthquake, has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 11. Happily, McCall & Associates Catering, the Richard Olsen Orchestra, the Nuclear Whales and the Harmonics Steel Drum Band will be joining us for the festivities. If you are able to attend on our new date, please call Brenda Zimmerman at (415)495-3100. Ticket sales begin at \$175 per person. Proceeds from this special evening of dining, dancing and entertainment will be used to support the educational programs at the Academy.

Native American Lecture Series



John Adair

Sam Yazzi, Navajo

In conjunction with the exhibit, "When the Rainbow Touches Down," the Academy is sponsoring a special lecture series on Native American art. This month, the series concludes with three January lectures.

On Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m., Polly Schaafsma, Research Associate with the Laboratory of Anthropology, Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, will present "Rock Art Symbolism." In her lecture/slide presentation, she will discuss the meaning, function and social implications of images such as kachinas and other supernaturals, shield-bearing warriors, and

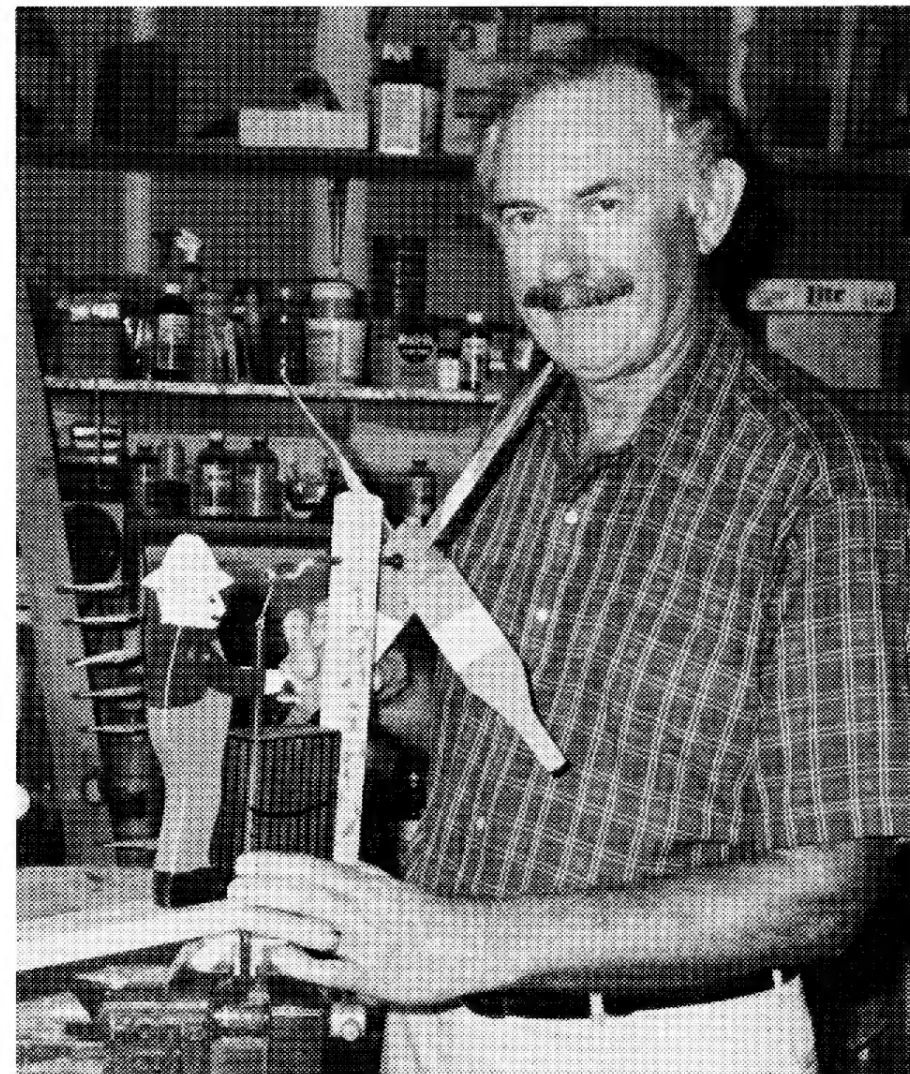
birds and animals of ritual significance found in secluded rock shelters in the desert southwest.

On Monday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., John Adair, Professor Emeritus in Anthropology, San Francisco State University, will present the film, "A Weave of Time: Intrepid Shadows." This unique ethnographic film documents the life of one Navajo family over a fifty year period. After the presentation, he will discuss his life-long interest in Navajo culture and the rapid changes affecting the lives of the Navajo people.

On Friday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m., renowned Navajo historian, Carl Gorman, will give a lecture and slide presentation on Navajo healing ceremonials. For three years, Gorman served as Director of the Office of Native Healing Sciences, Navajo Health Authority. This program was established to preserve traditional medicines and develop a directory of medicine men and herbal medicines.

The exhibits, "When the Rainbow Touches Down," and "Stone Spirits" will be open before and after each lecture. Tickets for these special lectures are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members and will be available at the door on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please call (415)750-7219.

Traditional Arts In January



Ted Worrall

Experience traditional food and folk art from the far corners of the world each Saturday at the Academy. These special programs take place at 1:00 p.m. in the Wattis Hall of Human Cultures and are made possible through a generous gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. For more information, call (415)750-7142.

January 13—Karen and Bob Altaras combine their talents to create children's hobby horses or "stick horses" fashioned from colorful fabrics and wood. A popular toy throughout history, the hobby horse can still inspire a child's imagination even in today's space-age era.

January 20—Dorothy and Edgar Blanton make a variety of hand-carved wooden games and puzzles, such as spinning tops, ball catchers, peg boards and diabolos. They will show us how to make and play with some of these simple yet fascinating gadgets.

January 27—Ted Worrall demonstrates the construction of whirligigs. These carved and painted garden ornaments feature wind-driven propellers that bring to life a series of whimsical figures. More than spinning toys, whirligigs set up vibration fields that have been known to scare moles and gophers.

Enter the Eighth Annual Photography Contest for Young People

If you are an aspiring photographer, 18 years or under, you are eligible to enter the Eighth Annual Photography Contest for Young People sponsored by the Academy. Winners will be chosen in eight categories: Plants, Animals, People at Work and Play, Portraits, Experimental, Landscapes: Man-Made and Natural, and Potpourri. Cash prizes will be given to the winners in each category and a selection of winning photographs will be displayed in a museum gallery during the summer months.



1989 Grand Prize By James Barnett

Lecture
Gender and Age Roles in Ladakh
Thursday, February 1 7:30 p.m.



Helena Norberg-Hodge
A talk about the effects of westernization on a remote region of the Himalayas will be given by Helena

Norberg-Hodge on Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m. In her lecture, Norberg-Hodge will discuss how the process of development and modernization in Ladakh has interrupted this traditional Buddhist society, with a particular focus upon the lowered status of women and the diminished role of the elderly in daily life.
Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members, and \$5 for non-members. To order tickets, please use the convenient order form below. For more information, call (415)750-7219.

Lecture
Star Wars and Maya Merchants at Cacaxtla
Monday, February 12 7:30 p.m.

Since their discovery in 1975, the spectacular pre-Columbian murals of Cacaxtla have been found to rival the world-famous Maya "Bonampak" murals both in state of preservation and importance. Dating to the Epiclassic Period after the fall of Teotihuacan, these murals exhibit a unique mixture of motifs and styles reflecting influences from Teotihuacan, Oaxaca, Xochicalco, the Gulf Coast, and most significantly, the Maya area. Central themes involve the association of warfare and blood sacrifice with rain and fertility. During 1987 and 1988, brilliant new murals were discovered at

Cacaxtla in two locations south of the "Plaza Norte". On Monday, February 12, John B. Carlson, Director of the Center for Archaeoastronomy will give a presentation about these recently-discovered murals in Cacaxtla, Mexico. This lecture will be a preview of an article about these recent discoveries that will appear in the March edition of National Geographic.
Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. To order tickets, please use the convenient order form below. For more information, call (415)750-7219.

Galileo Tonight!
Tuesday, January 16
7:30 p.m.



Michael Chriss as Galileo
"Exploring the Universe" begins its second season in the Morrison Planetarium on Tuesday, January 16 with a special presentation commemorating the 380th anniversary of Galileo's first view of the heavens through a telescope. "Galileo Tonight!" is a play that takes viewers back to the 17th century for a more personal view of the man who changed our view of the solar system. Professor Michael Chriss, College of San Mateo appears as Galileo.

- Additional speakers in this series are:
- Dr. Alex Filippenko**, "Supernova 1987A: Cosmic Fireworks," February 13
 - Dr. Susan Lea**, "Stellar Graveyards: The Death of Stars," March 6
 - Charles E. Kohlhase**, "A New Generation of Space Exploration: Into the 21st Century," April 3
 - Dr. Chris McKay**, "From Antarctica to Mars: The Quest for Life," May 8

This free series is made possible through the generosity of the Benjamin D. Dean Endowment Fund. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetarium. Free tickets and a Spring series brochure with more information on the series may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "The Universe," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.
For more information on ticket availability, call the Universe Line at (415)750-7129.

Ticket Order Form

| Event | Member Tickets | Non-Member Tickets | Total |
|----------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Ladakh | \$3_____ | \$5_____ | _____ |
| Cacaxtla | \$3_____ | \$5_____ | _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

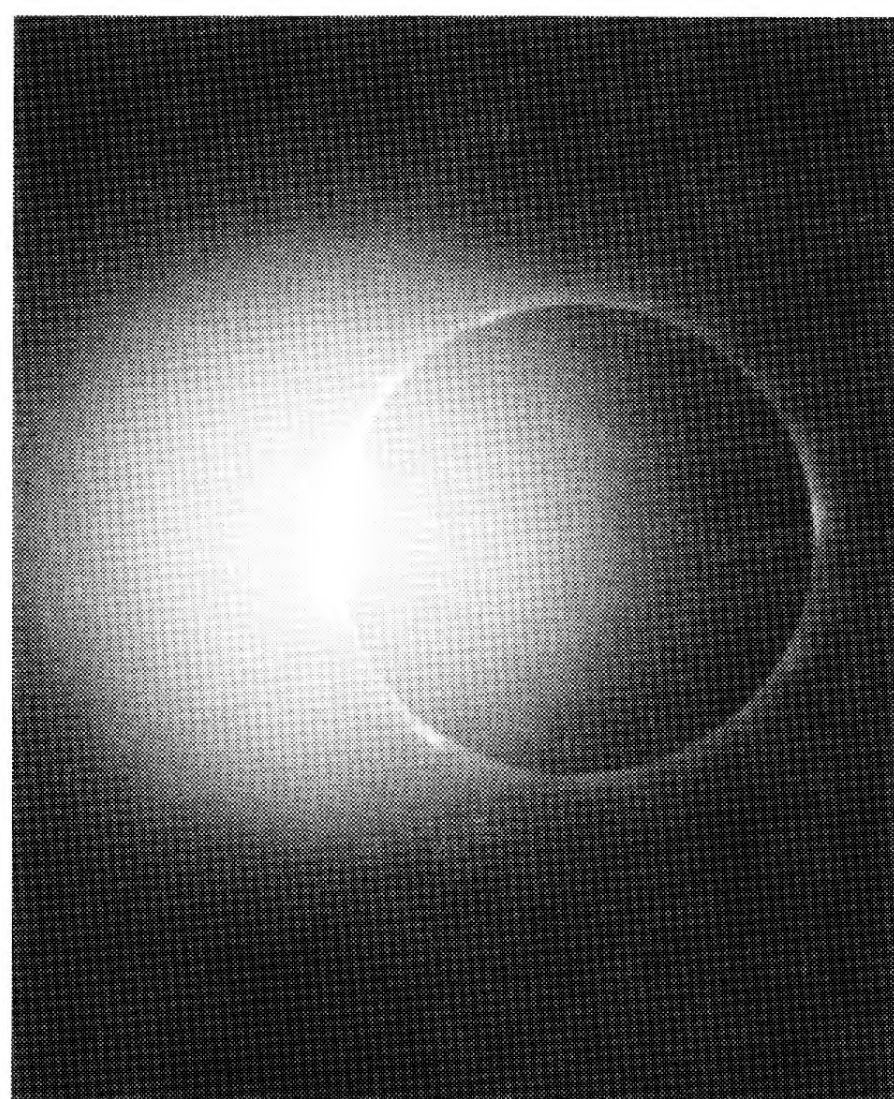
Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

No Refunds/Exchanges

Please remember to send separate checks for each activity and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Special Programs
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

View the Eclipse of 1991 from Oaxaca, Mexico July 8-12



On July 11, 1991, you could be at a special site near Oaxaca, Mexico, to witness the longest total solar eclipse of the sun occurring during the remainder of this century. This awe-inspiring event occurs in an area known for its beauty and cultural diversity. Oaxaca is the center of a marvelous mixture of many ages: the splendid ruins of the mountain citadel at Monte Alban, the geometric designs of the pre-Columbian buildings at Mitla and much, much more.

At a pre-expedition orientation in the Academy's Morrison Planetarium, tour leaders Lonny Baker of the Academy and Michael Chriss of the College of San Mateo will discuss the lore and history of eclipses, simulate the '91 eclipse in the Planetarium sky and show participants how to observe and photograph this event.

We hope you can join us on this once-in-a-lifetime eclipse tour. Sponsored by the Morrison Planetarium and San Mateo Community College District, the price for this excursion is \$1,050, double occupancy and \$1,150, single occupancy. For more information, call (415)750-7325. To request an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "Eclipse," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Travel the World in 1990

Don't be content to sit back and experience the world through travel books and adventure programs—take an Academy trip instead! Academy travelers will enjoy fun-filled days in beautiful and diverse locations while learning about the inspiring world of nature from tour lecturers whose knowledge of the natural world adds immensely to the travel experience. Here are this year's offerings:

Tanzania Safari
February 1-16
Lecturer: Beth Dunbar

Belize
February 18-March 2
Leader: Sharon Matola
Founder & Director, Belize Zoo

Baja California
March 4-11
Leader: Dr. Jim Kelley

Springtime Gardens of England
May 9-26
Leader: Dr. Dennis Breedlove

Indonesia: Secret Islands East of Bali
June 3-20
Lecturers: Dr. John McCosker and Dr. Stephen Jay Gould

Mexico's Ancient Empires
June 26-July 10
Lecturer: Dr. John B. Carlson

In the Wake of the Vikings: Bergen to Reykjavik
July 26-August 10

Alaska and the Queen Charlotte Islands
September 9-23
Lecturer: Dr. David Kavanaugh

Fall in Vermont
September

Pakistan and India
September 25-October 17
Lecturer: Nancy Pickford

Brazil and Argentina
November

For more information on these exciting expeditions, call the Academy's Travel Office at (415)750-7222.

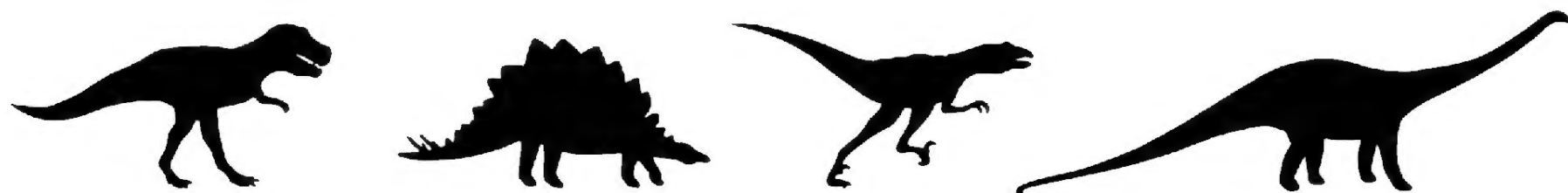
Special Thanks for Major Gifts

Several recent major gifts have supported projects and exhibits which are important to the Academy's mission of educating the public about the natural world. Mrs. Paul L. Wattis provided major sponsorship for the exhibition "When the Rainbow Touches Down," a show of twentieth-century Native American paintings which will be in Lovell White Hall through January 14.

Admiral and Mrs. Charles Macgowan (in memory of Captain and Mrs. Richard Matthews and Captain Richard Macgowan) and John Livermore have funded a new edition of "Research at the Academy." This book has been invaluable for explaining the Academy's work in systematic biology to the press,

potential donors, and other non-scientists. Homestake Mining Company provided full sponsorship for the exhibition "Stone Spirits," a beautiful photographic record of prehistoric petroglyphs that is on display in the Cowell Gallery through July 29.

Each year, 40,000 school children attend sky shows that are specially designed for their grade level. The Bernard Osher Foundation has provided funding to produce new school shows and to update the teaching materials that are sent to each teacher. In addition, the Osher Foundation has agreed to underwrite the cost of Free First Wednesdays for one year.





Bounty of the Bay

A Region's Culinary Heritage

Saturday, March 3
9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
At the Academy

In this day of discovery, the Academy brings together archaeologists, historians, scientists, writers, restaurateurs and food professionals to explore the historic and cultural uses of the Bay Area's unique culinary traditions and resources.

Following the symposium, the party begins! Sample the Bay Area's bounty with savory tastings of regional specialties prepared by some of the area's leading chefs. Exhibits and entertainment round out the day.

Ticket Order Form—
Bounty of the Bay
Saturday, March 3, 1990
9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

_____ \$45 members' tickets
 _____ \$55 non-members' tickets

Box lunches are available for \$8.50, but must be ordered in advance.

_____ Regular box lunch(es)
 _____ Vegetarian box lunch(es)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

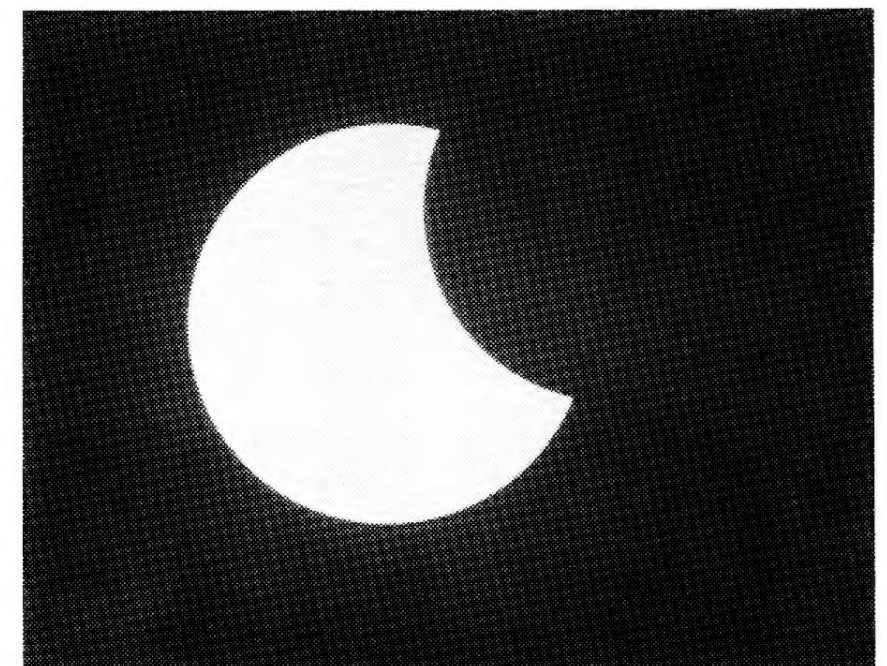
Daytime phone _____

Please send this form with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to Bounty of the Bay, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. Reservations will be accepted in the order received; sorry, no refunds or exchanges. Participation is limited to 400 persons. For further information, call (415)750-7166.

New Sky Show

1990: The Year Ahead

January 6 – February 25



This annual kick-off program turns the Planetarium into a time machine, revealing the notable astronomical events scheduled to occur during the coming year: eclipses, comets, meteor showers and many other celestial events. In addition, there will be an overview of space programs coming up in 1990. The Year Ahead will cover major events like the spacecraft Magellan's scheduled encounter with Venus in 1990 and the scheduled launch of the Hubble Space Telescope in March that will give scientists a closer look at the edge of the universe.

For more information about this and other events in the Morrison Planetarium, call (415)750-7141.

Young Audiences

Sunday, January 28
1:00 p.m.

With major funding from the McKesson Foundation and Grants for the Arts, Young Audiences presents an exciting series of performing arts programs for children, taking place one Sunday each month in Wattis Hall of Human Cultures.

This month, Lily Cai expresses the diversity of China's regional cultures through her extensive dance repertoire. With exquisite movements and exotic costumes, Lily introduces her audience to the folk and classic styles of dance that are unique to China.

They Ran to the Far Side V

On Sunday, November 26 at 8:30 a.m., over 10,000 runners from 35 states and 6 foreign countries ran, walked and crawled to Golden Gate Park for the coveted one-of-a-kind Gary Larson cartoon t-shirt.

Thanks to the participation of runners, staff, volunteers and our major sponsors, DIET Pepsi, KGO-TV and KRQR, our fifth-annual benefit Run was a success.



Funds from the race will be used to support the ongoing educational programs at the Academy.

*Time Dated Material
Please Expedite*

January 1990

Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

(415)221-5100

*Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118-4599*



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January at a Glance

- 4 Lecture: "Rock Art Symbolism" 7:30 p.m.
- 6 New Sky Show, "1990: The Year Ahead" begins
- 8 Lecture: "A Weave of Time," 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Members' Lecture: "Bats," 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Members' Lecture, 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Lecture: "Navajo Ceremonials," 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Traditional Arts—Hobby Horses, 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Exploring the Universe: "Galileo Tonight!," 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Traditional Arts—Wooden Games, 1:00 p.m.
- 23 Special Members' Lecture: Earthquakes, 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Traditional Arts—Whirligigs, 1:00 p.m.
- 28 Young Audiences—Chinese Dance, 1:00 p.m.

Coming Up In February

- 1 Lecture: Gender and Age Roles in Ladakh, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Lecture: Star Wars & Maya Merchants, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Members' Meeting, "In Search of Beetles in 'the Land of the Unexpected': Papua New Guinea" 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Members' Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

The Academy Store's January White (Red, Orange, Yellow, Blue and Violet) Sale



Stacy Kopjanski

Our version of a white sale includes every color of the rainbow. Come see our wide variety of unique, reasonably priced Academy T-shirts in vivid colors. We offer designs that range from dinosaurs and hieroglyphics to gyotaku prints and space-age earthrises. Sizes range from the newborn to granddad and everyone in between. Whatever your style, whatever your color, there's a piece of the rainbow in your size at the Academy Store.